



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

Division of Building and Fire Regulations

2021 Annual Report



The development, promotion
and uniform enforcement of
regulations that achieve safe,
affordable buildings in Virginia



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MISSION:

The development, promotion and uniform enforcement of regulations that achieve safe, affordable buildings in Virginia.

VISION:

Safe, affordable buildings for Virginia communities.

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Message from Deputy Director Cindy L. Davis

Friends and colleagues:

As we begin 2022, we would like to share some DHCD Building and Fire Regulations (BFR) highlights from 2021! Continuing the virtual focus from 2020, we were able to successfully provide stakeholder services and launch new efforts throughout the division. We invite you to review the information in this report that provides links and details to:

- The 2018 Virginia Codes
 - Energy analysis of the last three code cycles
 - Resiliency analysis of the newest Virginia codes
- BFR's focus on Southwest Virginia
- Staff work at the national level representing Virginia
- Rollout of the new CORE module at the code academy
- Development and launch of code change training in both real-time virtual and self-paced online modules

We continually strive to provide the best customer support to all of our stakeholders, and we very much appreciate the collaboration and expertise all of you provide to DHCD and to the commonwealth.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy L. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy L. Davis, CBO, Deputy Director
Division of Building and Fire Regulations
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

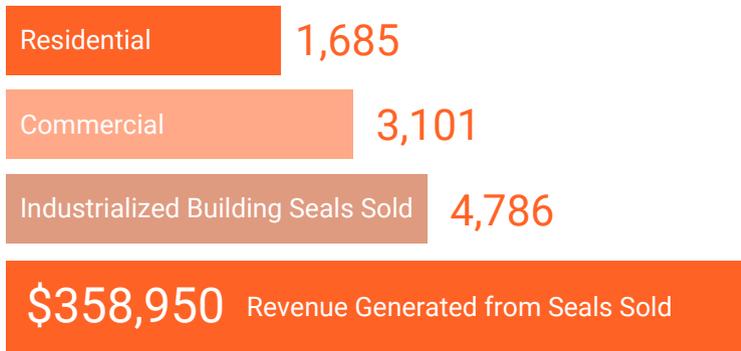
Division of Building and Fire Regulations

2021 At-a-Glance

Industrialized Buildings (IB)

- 10 Approved Compliance Assurance Agencies (CAAs)
- 19 IB Plans Reviewed

IB Seals Sold



Technical Support and Customer Service



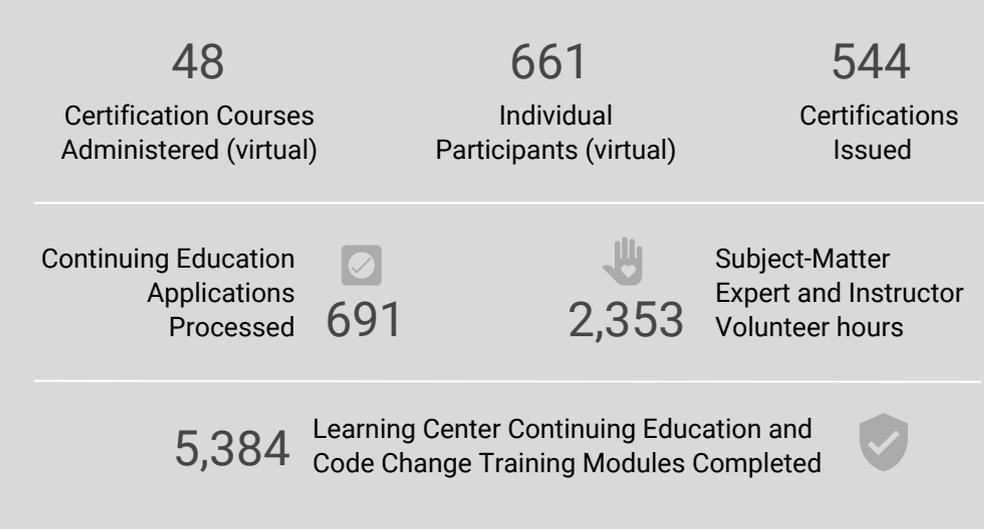
Manufactured Housing (MH)

- 1 MH Board Meeting Held
- 11 Dealer Lots Inspected
- 12 Complaints Resolved

MH Licenses Issued

- 11 Broker
- 185 Dealer
- 27 Manufacturer
- 377 Salesperson
- 600 Total

Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (VBCA)



Division of Building and Fire Regulations

2021 Outreach

Stakeholder Support

The Division of Building and Fire Regulations (BFR) maintains positive relationships with various stakeholders, clients, and constituent groups across the country, state, and region. These collaborative relationships are beneficial to staff, the agency, our stakeholders and Virginians.

Key stakeholder opportunities included:

- Serving on boards of directors or as officers in various organizations
- Providing training and scholarship opportunities
- Serving on national code, professional development, certification and testing councils and committees
- Providing technical code collaboration and presentations specific to industry needs
- Collaborating with organizations and other agencies to identify subject matter experts for training and curriculum development
- Working cooperatively within the industry to devise solutions to problems or concerns



WICED and Habitat for Humanity

Women in Code Enforcement and Development (WICED) of Virginia members participated in the annual Habitat for Humanity women's build held on June 11, 2021, in Suffolk VA. A number of division staff participated by giving back to the community and supporting our stakeholder organizations in this event.

Agency support for 2021 included:

- Serving as members of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force at DHCD
- Taking lead roles in facilitating the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference (VAGHC) by serving as technical support
- Continuing a focus on innovation in technology to advance affordable housing with agency and stakeholder groups
- Collaborating with Community College Workforce Development to build relationships between students and the construction industry
- Providing administrative support for the Board of Housing and Community Development on the code change process
- Supporting web development for Building and Fire Regulations
- Collaborating with Virginia Housing on the first 3D-printed house



International Code Council Board and National Participation:

- Cindy Davis was elected President of the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors
- Committee Action Hearings held in April
- ICC Conference and Hearings held in Pittsburgh in October
 - Board shadow to the ICC Board of Directors
- Committees:
 - Chair of the Sustainability Exam Development Committee
 - Chair of the ECIC Interpretation Committee
 - Property Maintenance and Housing Exam Development Committee
 - IECC Standards Committee
 - Chair and secretary to the IECC-R Admin and Consistency SG
 - Emerging Leaders Membership Council
 - IBC Interp Committee
 - Education Committee
 - Secretary of the Women in Code Enforcement and Development
 - Off-Site Construction Standards Development Committee
- Building Safety Journal Articles
 - "Encouraging and inspiring tomorrow's leaders: Board Shadow Program participant Paul Messplay," Suzanne Mooney
 - "Emerging technologies in building construction: Alternative methods and designs that decrease construction time and increase housing affordability," Paul Messplay IV

Other Support and Stakeholder Collaboration:

- Serving as a webinar panelist with representatives from ICC, VDEM and FEMA to discuss DHCD's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) application and promoting FEMA's BRIC grants program
- Collaborating with the city of Houston to discuss Virginia's successful BRIC grant funding and provided guidance to the city on crafting their own BRIC grant application
- Serving as a panelist for Better Business Bureau discussion on navigating construction inspections and fostering collaborative working relationships between contractors and inspectors
- Participating in multiple VBCOA presentations to the membership
- Publishing informational documents on Tiny Homes, ADUs, VA's Energy Codes, SFPC vs IFC and Resiliency Impact Analysis of 2018 USBC
- Finalizing a detailed mobile fueling report to the House Transportation Committee
- Providing 2018 code update training to the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers
- Collaborating with the Department of Fire Programs staff to clarify certification and continuing education requirements for fire prevention inspectors
- Providing code change training at the 2021 Virginia Builders Summit and Expo
- Serving as a panelist at the World of Modular Conference
- Serving as a panelist for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Future of Codes Workshop
- Serving as a panelist at the National Institute of Building Science (NIBS) Conference
- Serving as a member of the ASTM F24 Committee
- Participating in Virginia Department of Health's Rainwater Harvesting Workgroup
- Participating in the Richmond City Health District's Lead Elimination Advocacy Project (LEAP)

2021 Stakeholders

Engaged

- 350 Alexandria
- American Concrete Institute
- American Institute of Architects (AIA Virginia)
- Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA)
- American Wood Council (AWC)
- Climate Action Alliance of the Valley (CAAV)
- Columbia Gas
- Drive Electric RVA
- Eaton
- Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)
- Farm Bureau of Virginia
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Home Builders' Association of Virginia (HBAV)
- Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI)
- International Code Council (ICC)
- International Code Consultants
- Interstate Industrialized Buildings Commission (IIBC)
- Modular Building Institute (MBI)
- Modular Homebuilders Association (MHA)
- National Electric Manufacturers' Association (NEMA)
- National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)
- OmegaFlex
- Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)
- Responsible Energy Code Alliance (RECA)
- Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA)
- Southern Company Gas
- Sierra Club
- VanMetre
- Vectre Corporation
- Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC)
- Virginia Elevator Safety Association (VAESA)
- Virginia Manufactured/Modular Housing Association (VAMMHA)
- Virginia Association of Realtors (VAR)
- Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA)
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
- Virginia Department of Corrections (VDC)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Virginia Democracy Forward
- Virginia Natural Gas
- Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Virginia Fire Prevention Association (VFPA)
- Virginia First Technology
- Virginia Manufactured and Modular Home Association (VMMHA)
- Viridian
- Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors' Association (VPMIA)
- Virginia Retail Merchants Association (VRMA)
- Virginia Grassroots Coalition
- Washington Gas
- Women in Code Enforcement and Development (WICED – National and Virginia Chapters)

2021 Highlights

Deputy Director Cindy Davis Selected President of the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors



In September of 2021, the ICC held their annual conference in Pittsburgh, where Cindy Davis, deputy director of Virginia's Building and Fire Regulations, was elected to serve as the president. The ICC board is responsible for the International Code Council's strategic direction, including codes and standards development, while also acting as the voice of the association's membership.

Awards and Accolades

- At the Viridiant Building Sustainability Awards on Sept. 29, DHCD was awarded the Building Sustainability Award for Project, Program or Initiative in recognition of DHCD's code development process, grant work and collaboration with Viridiant and Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance to improve energy code implementation throughout the state.
- The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Rating the States 2021 report, which evaluates the 18 states along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts based on building code adoption, enforcement and contractor licensing, ranked Virginia second, falling only one point behind Florida. Virginia was described as having "one of the strongest code enforcement programs among the group."
- Virginia ranked first in the South on the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) State Efficiency Scorecard.
- FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program selected DHCD to receive funding to provide ICC's "When Disaster Strikes" training to code enforcement personnel throughout the state as a first step towards developing a statewide disaster response network.
- Deputy Director Cindy Davis received the Jack A. Proctor Meritorious Service Award at the VBCOA annual conference.

Supporting Jurisdictions

Through VBCA, BFR provided ICC memberships for 162 jurisdictions, enforcing the Uniform Statewide Building Code and continuing the practice of providing a full set of 2018 Virginia codes to all Virginia building departments.

2021 Highlights

Warm Welcomes and Fond Farewells

Two new faces joined the BFR team in 2021. **Jeanette Campbell** joined as the administrative assistant for BFR, bringing with her an extensive background in corporate, private sector and nonprofit business administration. **Chad Lambert** joined the SBCO team as a Southwest Virginia code and regulation specialist. Lambert brings 12 years of experience in building codes, with the last eight years as the Bluefield, Virginia building official.

Katy Yuan and **Krista Artis** joined the Virginia Building Code Academy (VBCA) team as new training and development coordinators. Yuan brings several years of administrative coordination and training and development experience from her time with the Irrigation Association in Fairfax, Virginia. Artis' talents were developed coordinating events and facilities rentals during her eight years with Chesterfield County Public Schools.

The VBCA wished all the best to Kelly Duggins, Danielle Manuel and Sarah Foote as each moved on to further their personal career goals in training development, human resources and program administration, respectively.



Building Safety Month 2021



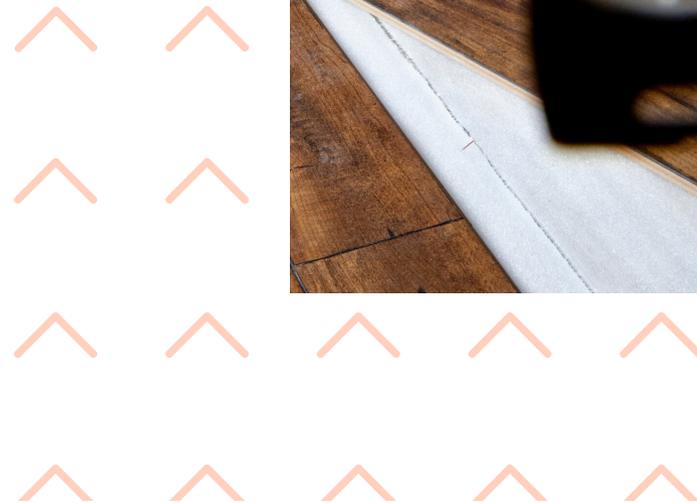
Building Safety Month (BSM) is a public awareness campaign celebrated by jurisdictions worldwide during the month of May to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

**Special presentations were made by
Gov. Northam and the CEO of ICC, Dominic Sims:**

2021 Building Safety Month Video - Gov. Northam
2021 Building Safety Month Video - Dominic Sims

DHCD 2021 Building Safety Month Podcast:

- **Episode 47:** Energy and Innovation in the Building Code
- **Episode 48:** On Training the Next Generation
- **Episode 51:** Preparing for Disaster



State Technical Review Board (STRB)

The State Building Code Technical Review Board (STRB) consists of 14 citizens, appointed by the governor to ensure Virginia's building code is administered fairly and is well-understood by the residents of Virginia. The board's primary purpose is to hear appeals from enforcement actions under the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, the Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations, Virginia Amusement Device Regulations and the Virginia Certification Standards.

The board also provides interpretations to the provisions of the USBC and SFPC and makes recommendations to the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development for future modifications, amendments or repeals of such provisions.

STRB in 2021

During 2021, the review board:

- Developed two board policies
- Heard two requests for interpretations
- Held six meetings
- Issued six final orders
- Considered eight appeals
- Designed and offered a new appeals training presentation
- Created the 2018 Interpretation Booklet
- Revised the LBBCA training manual and appeals participant guide

Two board members, Kenney Payne and Rick Witt, resigned during 2021, while three new members, David V. Hutchins, Elizabeth C. White and R. Jonah Margarella, were appointed to the board.

STRB Membership - Current Board Members

- **James R. Dawson | Chair** (Virginia Fire Chiefs Association)
- **W. Shaun Pharr, Esq.** | Vice Chair (Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington)
- **Vince Butler** (Virginia Home Builders Association)
- **J. Daniel Crigler** (Virginia Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors and the Virginia Chapters of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America)
- **Alan D. Givens** (Virginia Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors and the Virginia Chapters of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America)
- **David V. Hutchins** (Electrical Contractor)
- **Christina Jackson** (Commonwealth At-large)
- **Joseph A. Kessler, III** (Associated General Contractors)
- **R. Jonah Margarella, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP** (American Institute of Architects Virginia)
- **Eric Mays** (Virginia Building and Code Officials Association)
- **Joanne D. Monday** (Virginia Building Owners and Managers Association)
- **Elizabeth C. White** (Commonwealth At-large)
- **Aaron Zdinak, PE** (Virginia Society of Professional Engineers)
- **Vacant** (Virginia Building and Code Officials Association)

Staff to the Review Board

- **Justin I. Bell, Esq.** | Board Counsel
- **W. Travis Luter Sr.** | Board Secretary

Manufactured Housing (MH)

2021 Snapshot

Manufactured housing is an important source of affordable housing for Virginians. Manufactured homes, sometimes referred to as HUD code homes, are built in a factory on a permanent chassis with transportable sections, and are used as single family dwellings. They may be sited with or without a permanent foundation.

DHCD regulates Virginia's manufactured housing industry through the Virginia Manufactured Home Safety Regulations (MHSR) and the Virginia Manufactured Housing Licensing and Transaction Recovery Fund Regulations (MHLTRFR). Through these regulations, DHCD licenses dealers, manufacturers and salespersons and provides administrative support to the governor appointed Manufactured Housing Board to hear complaints against licensees.

The design, construction, in-plant inspections and certifications of manufactured homes are done under a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). DHCD, as the state administrative agency (SAA) for HUD, handles all consumer complaints for manufactured homes that are manufactured, sold or installed in Virginia. As the SAA, DHCD administers HUD approved installation and dispute resolution programs for manufactured housing in Virginia.

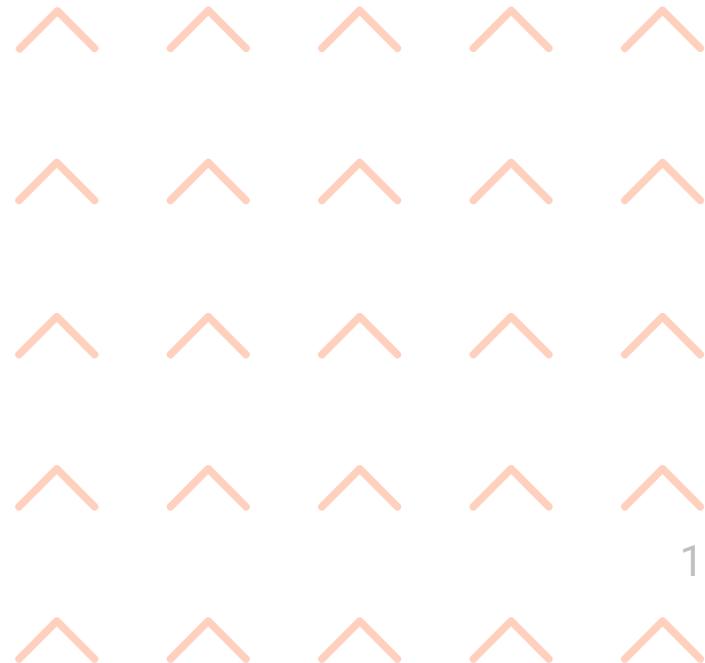
600 Manufactured Housing Licenses Issued:

Broker: 11

Manufacturer: 27

Dealer: 185

Salesperson: 377



Industrialized Buildings (IB)

2021 Snapshot

Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (IBSR) help uniformly regulate industrial buildings (IB), often referred to as modular buildings. IBSR provides for the administration and enforcement of consistent, mandated statewide standards. DHCD is the agency responsible for IBs, and accredits third-party compliance assurance agencies (CAAs) to review designs, inspect construction and certify the buildings through the application of the Virginia Registration Seal. DHCD oversees the performance of each CAA.

The finalized language in the 2018 regulatory process will add additional guidance for shipping containers and panelized construction.

IB Seals Sold:

Residential: 1,685

Commercial: 3,101

Industrialized Building Seals Sold: 4,786

Revenue Generated from Seals Sold: \$358,950

ICAA Updates:

6 Industrialized Building Plants Audited

10 Approved Third-Party Agencies (CAAs)

19 IB Plans Reviewed

2021 Virginia Approved CAAs:

Expert Modular Consultants LLC

Hillborne, Werner, Carter & Associates, dba HWC, Inc.

Modular Code Consultants

ICC NTA LLC

PFS Corporation

Professional Service Industries Inc. dba Intertek-PSI

Progressive Engineering Inc. dba PEI

Pyramid 1 Inc.

RADCO

T.R. Arnold & Associates Inc.



Virginia Manufactured Housing Board (MHB)

2021 Board Overview

The Virginia Manufactured Housing Board (MHB) is composed of nine members appointed by the governor, representing different groups who are designated to enable legislation. The MHB adopts and, with the assistance of DHCD staff, executes enforcement of the Virginia Manufactured Home Safety Regulation (MHSR) and the Manufactured Housing Licensing and Transaction Recovery Fund Regulations (MHLTRFR).

The board is responsible for licensing manufactured home dealers, brokers, manufacturers and salespersons working for those companies. The board is also authorized to receive consumer complaints regarding manufactured homes and make case decisions as necessary to resolve complaints.

The Manufactured Housing Board (MHB) met once during 2021 to receive updates and to elect Kris Bridges as chair and Travis Luter as secretary.

Manufactured Housing Board Membership:

- James Trepinski, Fleetwood Homes Inc. (Manufacturer)
- Scott Montgomery, Champion Homes (Manufacturer)
- Walter Cleaton, Home Solutions, South Hill (Dealer)
- Stephan Geiser (Dealer)
- David C. Bridges | Chair (Public)
- Shawna J. Cheney (Public)
- Keith W. Hicks (Public)
- Sean D. Hicks (Public)
- James W. Roncaglione (Designee of DHCD Director)
- Justin I. Bell, Esq. | Board Counsel (Staff to Board)
- W. Travis Luter Sr. | Board Secretary (Staff to Board)



Code Development

Building and Fire Regulations staff finalized and published the 2018 Virginia building and fire regulations and partnered with ICC to publish the custom Virginia code books. The 2018 Virginia codes became effective in the commonwealth on July 1, 2021. Building and Fire Regulations staff developed 2018 Code Change Training for all Virginia code enforcement personnel and offered multiple live virtual training sessions as well as self-paced online training for each module.

The 2021 code update cycle kicked off in October, 2021 with the publication of the Notices of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA). This action alerts the public that the Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) intends to consider amending the regulations outlined in the code.

Three separate study groups began meeting in December to discuss In-Building Emergency Communications Systems, Townhouse Sprinklers and Active Shooter Barricade Devices in Public Buildings.



State Building Codes Field Office Southwest Virginia Spotlight 2021

It has always been a goal of the Division of Building and Fire Regulation to serve and provide support to building departments and other stakeholders throughout the commonwealth. Several years ago, Deputy Director Cindy Davis asked a code and regulation specialist to attend VBCOA meetings in Southwest Virginia, provide updates on BFR activities, give informal code opinions, bring training to the regions and provide other general support. These efforts were well received, and in December of 2019, DHCD opened an office in Wytheville and hired a building official from SWVA, who continues to provide the support needed in the region.

The Wytheville Office recently expanded to two staff members; Brian Hilderbrand, construction regulation administrator and Chad Lambert, Southwest Virginia code and regulation specialist. Their responsibilities also include the administration of DHCD's Manufactured Housing and Industrialized Building programs. Any questions or issues related to these programs can be directed to them or Thomas King, code and regulation specialist in the Richmond area. They are continuing to provide support and develop relationships throughout Southwest Virginia.

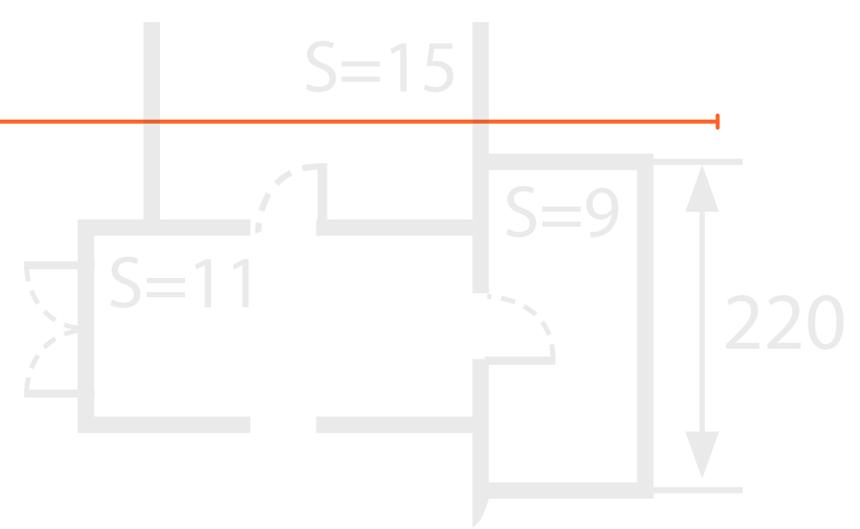
Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy 2021 Highlights

Code change training courses administered (in-person) = 1
Seats filled = 30
Individual participants = 30

VBCA live curriculum courses converted to online virtual format = 2
Commercial Energy

Continuing education (CE) courses administered (virtual) = 9
Individual participants = 265
Seats filled = 474

Code change training courses administered (virtual) = 20
Individual participants = 1221
Seats filled = 2448



Learning Center self-paced continuing education training modules completed = 32
Individual users completed training = 31

Certification courses administered (virtual) = 48
Individual participants = 661
Seats filled = 1106

Certifications issued = 544

Continuing education (CE) applications processed = 691

Subject-Matter Expert and Instructor Volunteer hours = 2,353
Code change training and technical course development = 737
Code change training and technical course instruction = 1,616

Learning Center self-paced code change training modules completed = 5,352
Individual students that completed at least one CCT module = 845

VBCA Numbers Through the Years

Year	Total Attendance	Certificates Issued	CE Applications Processed
2015	811	551	475
2016	1310	456	824
2017	1325	686	500
2018	3231	678	925
2019	1701	599	579
2020	1511	427	974
2021	2176	544	691



2021 Code Academy Accomplishments

Core Redevelopment

- ✓ Redeveloped and launched a new version of the Core course.
- ✓ The new format includes online self-paced prerequisites.
- ✓ Core will continue to be refined for full launch and release in 2022.

Successful launch of Code Change Training - Live Virtual and Self-Paced Online offerings

- ✓ Partnered with subject-matter experts across the state to develop a comprehensive training curriculum focused on the 700+ changes impacting the Virginia codes this cycle.
- ✓ Developed 16 individual Virginia modules.
- ✓ Training delivered to over 1,200 students via virtual classroom and over 800 students via self-paced online modules.
- ✓ The administrative module includes refresher training on key Virginia-specific differences in code enforcement and administration.
- ✓ Partnered with Virginia Department of Fire Programs instructors and subject-matter experts to create a Fire Code Edits module.

Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development

Members and Impact

We acknowledge and thank our BHCD members for their dedicated efforts and hard work in maintaining the high-quality codes Virginia is known for.

2021 Board of Housing and Community Development Members

Abigail Johnson, Congressional district 1

Andrew Friedman, Congressional district 2

Claudia Cotton, Congressional district 3

Larry Murphy, Congressional district 4

Sylvia Hallock, Congressional district 5

Paykon Sarmadi, Congressional district 6

Richard Gregory, Congressional district 7

Patricia Shields, Congressional district 8

Mark Jackson, Congressional district 9

Brett Meringoff, Congressional district 10 | Vice Chair

Sonny Abbasi, Congressional district 11 | Chair

Keith Johnson, Virginia Fire Services Board

Susan F. Dewey, CEO, Virginia Housing

Sean Farrell, Virginia Building and Code Officials Association



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